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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ELY.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my first Annual Report. One month after the outbreak of war, I commenced duties as your Medical Officer of Health, but owing to the extra amount of work resulting from Evacuation and Air Raid Precautions, time could only be given to urgent and essential Public Health matters.

The influx of Evacuees does not at present appear to have affected, adversely the general health of the population, but overcrowded conditions brought about by an increased population may have a detrimental effect on the health of the public. An even greater danger to health may arise from the loss of sleep occasioned by air raid alarms etc. and the nervous and mental reaction brought about by the war resulting in a lowering of resistance to infection.

I am indebted to Dr. Maurice-Smith for his informative help in drawing up this report. I also desire to thank the Sanitary Inspector Mr. King for his able assistance and co-operation.

The Minister of Health has asked Medical Officers to confine their report to essential and urgent matters. I have accordingly curtailed this report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

J.F. DAWSON

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F.

Medical Officer of Health:-	K.S. Maurice-Smith M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. (till 30th September 1939) J.F. Dawson, M.B.,B.Ch.,D.P.H.,
Sanitary Inspector:-	A.E. King, M.S.E., F.F.A.S., F.F.Sc., (Lond)
Meat Inspector:-	James G. Runciman, M.R.C.V.S.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births.	Legitimate.	111	63	47	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1939:- 13·12
	Illegitimate.	1	1	-	
Stillbirths.		8	2	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:- 67·22
Deaths:		99	55	44	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population:- 11·23

Deaths from Puerperal causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Deaths Rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births. 54·05
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births. 54·05
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages.)	20
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres.	14,764
Resident Population (Registrar General's estimate)	8,458
Number of inhabited houses	2,600
Rateable value	£39,717
Amount represented by 1d. rate.	£155.1s.8d.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Clinical Research Association carry out bacteriological and pathological examination of specimens submitted to them.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious cases are removed to Hospital in the Ely Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

For non-infectious and accident cases the Urban District has its own ambulance.

Since the commencement of the war, three vehicles have been fitted out as ambulances which will be used in the event of casualties occurring as the result of air raids.

Nursing in the Home.

Nursing in the home is carried out by 4 district nurses.

Emergency Maternity Home.

An Emergency Maternity Home was opened in September for the treatment of expectant mothers evacuated from danger areas. It accommodates 20 patients is staffed by 4 trained midwives. A local Doctor is on call for difficult cases.

Clinics.

Under the administration of the Isle of Ely County Council a Chest Clinic is held at the Downham Road Clinic, Ely, weekly. A School Clinic and a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held once a week in Ely.

Hospitals.

The Public Assistance Institution at Ely is available for medical cases. It is a class II Hospital under the Emergency Hospital Scheme.

Ely Urban and Rural Joint Isolation Hospital is available for treatment of notifiable infectious diseases (excluding Measles and Whooping Cough).

Arrangements are being made for the provision of a Sick Bay. This will be used for nursing non-infectious sick evacuees who would in the ordinary circumstances be treated at home. It will accommodate 20 children and will have a qualified nurse and an assistant nurse as staff.

Air Raid Precautions.

As a result of the war there has been established a First Aid Post and a Mobile Unit, each in the charge of a Medical Officer. These will deal with casualties resulting from air raids if such casualties occur in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops are inspected frequently to see that the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 are being complied with. There are still some registered retailers of milk whose premises do not comply with the standard of cleanliness required by the Milk and Dairies Order 1926. In my opinion the Council would do well in dealing more drastically with the defaulters.

Meat and Other Foods.

Every effort is made to ensure that all meat slaughtered in this district is examined prior to being offered for sale for human consumption. Shops, stalls and vehicles are periodically inspected in order to see that the Public Health (Meat) Regulations are being complied with.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage disposal works is far from satisfactory. The new sewerage scheme referred to in last years report has not yet materialized. The present sewerage disposal works are antiquated and inefficient and the sooner they are replaced by a modern system the better it will be for the general health of the citizens.

During the year a portion of the West Fen Road Sewerage Scheme was carried out.

Water Supply.

The District has a piped supply of water which has so far proved adequate in quality and quantity. An interconnection of the Ely Urban District Council and Rural District Council water mains was made at Manor Farm, Soham in November.

The periodic bacteriological examination of the water supplied, proved satisfactory throughout the year.

Housing.

There still remains a large number of houses occupied which are unfit for human habitation. The war has however put a stop to any work that might have been done in this direction. Owing to the influx of evacuees the standard of overcrowding as laid down by the Housing Act has of necessity been ignored.

Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease in the Urban District. The figures compare favourably with those of last year.

Scarlet Fever	1
Pneumonia	19
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Erysipelas	8

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

During the year 414 or 45.09% of the Ely school children and 259 or 35.2% of the evacuee children were immunized.

Immunisation was carried out at the schools. The prophylactic used was Toxoid - Antitoxin Floccules (Suspension).

Tubercolosis.

15 new cases were notified to me during the year. 8 Male (3 Respiratory, 5 non-respiratory); 7 Female (2 Respiratory, 5 non-respiratory).

Deaths.

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
3	3	1	1